



CIVIL SOCIETY'S WORKSHOP ON POST 2015 AGENDA REPORT

Holiday Inn, Harare

29th August 2014



Executive Summary

The Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT) hosted a half day civil society's workshop on Post 2015 Development Agenda on the 29th of August 2014 at Holiday inn in Harare. PRFT saw the need to organise the civil society workshop on Post 2015 following its realization that;

- the current MDGs framework set out in 2000 is due to expire in 2015,
- there is currently a time bound international process of discussing, influencing and negotiating for a successor global development framework,
- the window to influence the Post 2015 Debate is getting narrower, with the date for the Post-2015 Summit set in September 2015.

In order for the civil society's advocacy work to add value to the process in the remaining time, the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust invited Mr. Sidney Mhishi who has been extensively involved with the SDGs framework as co-chair of the Open Working Group for Southern Africa as well as Mr. Nyaguse, the Director of National Development Planning in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development who has represented the government in a number of Post-2015 discussions at various levels to share with the civil society, the road map on Post 2015, the output and the way forward. The workshop informed PRFT and other civil society organizations' work going forward with regards to the Post 2015 discussions. The platform also provided an opportunity for the civil society to strengthen its relationship with government on national development processes.

Workshop Proceedings

Opening Remarks and Workshop Objectives - PRFT's Board Member, Mr. Charles Mutasa

In his opening remarks, the facilitator of the workshop, Mrs. Charles Mutasa welcomed all participants to the workshop before outlining the objectives of the meeting. The workshop was premised on the following specific objectives;

- To inform CSOs of Government(s) work on the post 2015 development agenda.
- To explore opportunities in which CSOs can build partnerships with government and other Players
- To analyze options for national accountability and monitoring framework, best practices and measurements of development indicators.
- To explore mechanisms that CSOs can use to hold government to account on local Post 2015 work.

- To advocate for continued involvement of CSOs in shaping the post 2015 agenda

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/ Post 2015 development agenda: Feedback on process to date – Acting principal Director (MOPSLSW) – Mr. S. Mhishi

The MOPSSW's acting principal director went through the road to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and processes currently underway with regards to the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The Post-2015 development agenda is currently shaped by two largely distinctive approaches or 'tracks' namely; the member state- led (UN General Assembly Processes and the UN Secretary- General – led processes). These two tracks will converge in September 2014 into one intergovernmental process to work towards a single framework and single set of global goals. The key issue that emerged from the presentation is that the new framework will be anchored upon the success and weaknesses of the MDGs goals hence the SDGs will address the unfinished business on MDGs agenda. Mr Mhishi also indicated that the outcome document is centered on poverty reduction and sustainable development. The presentation also pre-empted the summary and comments on the proposed 17 SDGs and targets as stipulated in the outcome document (available at [www. Sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://www.Sustainabledevelopment.un.org))

However, Mr Mhishi also pointed out that whilst most of the goals of SDGs have been unanimously agreed upon by the members of the UN general assembly open working group on SDGs, there are still some contentions on other goals. Whilst there is consensus among the members that there is need to combat climatic change and its impacts (Goal number 13), the major area of contention is whether combating climate change should be part and parcel of the SDGs or it should come under UN FCCC, an already established platform to deal with climate change issues. Furthermore, the negotiations around goal (Goal number 17) to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development are not conclusive especially with regards to whether "one jacket fits all" approach is going to be used in terms of implementation of the SDGs. Mr Mhishi emphasized that there is still a room for further interrogations around this goal.

Although most countries are in agreement with the document outcome (e. g Southern African Countries), Mr Mhishi emphasized that the Post 2015 development agenda is still an unfinished business and there is room for civil society and governments to contribute their views to shape and influence the outcome of the Post 2015 especially around issues of targets, indicators, monitoring and evaluation framework and financing mechanisms.

Key issues discussed during plenary discussions

Following the presentation by Mr Mhishi, the dialogue was opened up and participants debated on key issues that emerged from the presentation. One of the areas of great concern from the participants was whether Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya, (the countries who have been representing Africa on Post 2015 negotiations) had their own positions/ views which they fed into the outcome document. Participants also sought clarity on the role of UN in the Post 2015 processes and its position with regards to the financing of the SDGs.

In response to some of the issues, the UNDP representative, Mr Udo Etukudo highlighted that issues of financing of SDGs are still outstanding. According to the UNDP representative, there is no position that UN members have come up with regards to the financing of SDGs. He also said UN is facilitating the SDGs process and the UNDP in Zimbabwe is waiting for feedback from the 2014 September UN General Assembly before it can coordinate the national stakeholders meeting on SDGs in Harare. Mr Mhishi also reiterated that there is still a lot of work before the 2015 UN summit. Mr Nyaguze (MOF ED) also highlighted that the proposed goal number 17's emphasis is on the domestic mobilisation of resources as a favorable approach to finance the SDGs framework.

What Civil Society Wants/ Asks – Mrs. Judith Kaulem (PRFT Executive Director)

Following the participation of PRFT in the CAMPASS research project towards adding Zimbabwe's voice into the post 2015 discourse in 2012, the PRFT's Executive Director presented to the government, the civil society's views on what the Post 2015 development framework should address. According to the Executive Director, the kind of transformative development that ordinary residents would want to see should recognize the following;

- Rights and recognition for all
- Inclusion, solidarity and collective action,
- Participation, accountability and democratic institutions,
- Services and policies which respond to the needs of poor and marginalised groups

Mrs Kaulem reiterated that the next round of Post 2015 negotiations should be build on key values of participation, human rights and environmental sustainability and the framework must move forward by addressing the means of implementation of the goals, strengthening the inter-linkages between goals and agreeing on an extensive and robust accountability mechanism among others.

Government's processes and way forward – Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

In his presentation, the Director of National Development Planning, Mr.G. Nyaguse highlighted that the government through Ministry of Finance is committed to finance national development. He indicated that the ministry is in the process of mobilising resources to convene a national stakeholder consultation meeting to be held in collaboration with UNDP. The meeting will be held after the approval of the SDGs outcome document by the UN General Assembly in September 2014. The national consultation meeting will unpack the proposed document to the relevant stakeholders so as to get feedback and views before the beginning of final round of negotiations on Post 2015. He also reiterated that Zimbabweans have the room to feed into the Post 2015 Agenda as the discussions are still ongoing on. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development representative also shared with civil society on the government's preparations already underway to have a final country report on MDGs by early 2015. According to the Director, the report will be used to generate lessons learnt and issues to be prioritized by government in the SDGs framework.

Key issues discussed in the plenary

Following these two presentations, participants felt that the government should include all key stakeholders in the task force responsible in the production of the final country report on MDG. During the discussions, one of the workshop participants sought clarification from the floor on the extent to which the civil society's views collected through previous various consultative meetings have been used to influence the UN processes. The MOPSLSW indicated that stakeholders' consultations especially with the civil society were not as fruitful as they expected since the beginning of the Post 2015 process. According to both UNDP and MOPSLSW, one of the major challenges has been to collect views from civil society to equip Zimbabwean representatives during the Post 2015 discussions. In response to some of the issues raised, the PRFT Executive Director highlighted that the civil society organizations' responses to the Post 2015 agenda have been mostly dependent on the availability of donor funding. She added that some civil society organizations lacked sustainability in their work around Post 2015 discussions due to funding challenges.

Conclusions and Way forward

As a way forward, the stakeholders (government, civil society and UNDP) came up with recommendations. Below are some of the key recommendations that emerged from the plenary discussions.

- The participants agreed to prepare for the national stakeholders' consultation meeting
- The government and UNDP recommended National Association of Non Governmental organizations (NANGO) to mobilize its members and work together towards making sure that all people's views and comments are captured and fed into the national consultation meeting.
- The civil society also recommended the government to strengthen its consultation process to make sure that all stakeholders are taken aboard in all national development processes.
- A recommendation was put forth for the creation of a portal to capture all civil society organizations' views on Post 2015 development agenda which can be used to influence the next round of discussions.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Mr. Mutasa applauded PRFT for organizing the workshop and bringing together government officials, UNDP representatives and civil society organizations to discuss and map the way forward with regards to the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Mrs. Kaulem also took time to thank the government officials for spending their time to share with the civil society on national development plans and processes.

List of Workshop participants

Name	Organization	Designation	Contact details
Tendai Mberenganwa	CCM	Deputy Coordinator	0772344982
Fiona Mukwasha	Progressio	Sub Regional Manager	0775132803
Eugenia Bodzo	Africare	M and E Officer	0774115574
Nomagugu Ndlovu	University of Zimbabwe	Post Grad Researcher	0774774701
Judith Kaulem	PRFT	Executive Director	(04) 307472/3
Thomas Deve	SEATINI	Policy Advisor	0772 204793
Heather Koga	MPOI	Research officer	0772 957929
Udo Etukudo	UNDP	Economic Advisor	
Laxon Chinhengo	MOPSLSW	Deputy Director	(04) 794564
Morris Charumbira	Restless Development	Evaluations and Research Manager	0772 948 817
Ethel Bangwano	UNDP	National Economist	0735 672081
Mary Sandasi	WASN	Executive Director	0772376383
Dorothy Hove	Christian Aid	Program Officer	0772904564
Taurai Chira	Afrodad	Policy Researcher	0773 437266
Masimba Manyanya	ZIMCDD	Researcher	0783267852
Leornanrd Mandishora	NANGO	Senior Program Officer	
P Bwanya	NPA	PM	(04) 746686/89

T Dzawara	NANGO	Intern	0776 125333
T Mushope	Min of Finance and Economic Development	Principal Economist	0733 973 525
Nyaradzo Mutonhori	ZELA	Legal Researcher	0772 596 345
Charles Mutasa		Facilitator	0772 415 720
S.G. Mhishi	MOPSLSW	A/Principal Director	0712403229
T. Ziwewe	University of Zimbabwe	Post Graduate student	0773 221 226
Samatha Sanangurai	ICCO	Programmes Assistant	0777 124817
G. Nyaguse	Min of Finance and Econ Dev	Director	0773 447051
Tawanda Nyamutumbu	PRFT	Finance Officer	(04) 307472/3
Tafara Chiremba	PRFT	Programs officer	(04) 307472/3
Valentine Maponga	ZPP	Information Officer	0777579385
Machinda Maronge	NANGO	Programs Officer	0772448601